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FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ACT, AS AMENDED

Through

December 23, 1944

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION  
Washington, D. C.



## FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ACT, AS AMENDED

## Short Title and Application of Other Provisions

Sec. 501. This title may be cited as the "Federal Crop Insurance Act." Except as otherwise expressly provided the provisions in titles I to IV, inclusive, shall not apply with respect to this title, and the term "Act" wherever it appears in such titles shall not be construed to include this title. 1/ (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1501, 52 Stat. 72.)

## Declaration of Purpose

Sec. 502. It is the purpose of this title to promote the national welfare by alleviating the economic distress caused by crop failures due to drought and other causes, by maintaining the purchasing power of farmers, and by providing for stable supplies of agricultural commodities for domestic consumption and the orderly flow thereof in interstate commerce. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1502, 52 Stat. 72, 55 Stat. 257.)

Sec. 503. To carry out the purposes of this title, there is hereby created as an agency of and within the Department of Agriculture a body corporate with the name "Federal Crop Insurance Corporation" (herein called the Corporation). The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the District of Columbia, but there may be established agencies or branch offices elsewhere in the United States under rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Directors. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1503, 52 Stat. 72.)

## Capital Stock

Sec. 504. (a) The Corporation shall have a capital stock of \$100,000,000 subscribed by the United States of America, payment for which shall, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, 2/ be subject to call in whole or in part by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Any impairment of the capital stock described in this subsection shall be restored only out of operating profits of the Corporation. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1504 (a), 52 Stat. 72.)

1/ The Federal Crop Insurance Act is title V of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. (52 Stat. 31.)

2/ The Powers vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by this Act were transferred to the War Food Administrator on March 26, 1943 by Executive Order 9322 (8 F.R. 3807) as amended by Executive Order 9334 (8 F.R. 5423) and Executive Order 9392 (8 F.R. 14783).

(b) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not more than \$100,000,000 for the purpose of subscribing to said stock. No part of such sum shall be available prior to July 1, 1938. The appropriation for such purpose for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, shall not exceed \$20,000,000 and shall be made only out of the unexpended balances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, of the sums appropriated pursuant to section 15 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1504 (b), 52 Stat. 72.)

(c) Receipts for payments by the United States of America for or on account of such stock shall be issued by the Corporation to the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be evidence of the stock ownership by the United States of America. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1504 (c), 52 Stat. 72.)

#### Management of Corporation

Sec. 505. (a) The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors (hereinafter called the "Board") subject to the general supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board shall consist of three persons employed in the Department of Agriculture who shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the Secretary of Agriculture. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1505 (a), 52 Stat. 72.)

(b) Vacancies in the Board so long as there shall be two members in office shall not impair the powers of the Board to execute the functions of the Corporation, and two of the members in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1505 (b), 52 Stat. 72.)

(c) The Directors of the Corporation appointed as herein-before provided shall receive no additional compensation for their services as such directors but may be allowed actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses when engaged in business of the Corporation outside of the District of Columbia. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1505 (c), 52 Stat. 73.)

(d) The Board shall select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, a manager, who shall be the executive officer of the Corporation with such power and authority as may be conferred upon him by the Board. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1505 (d), 52 Stat. 73.)

#### General Powers

Sec. 506. The Corporation--

(a) shall have succession in its corporate name; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (a), 52 Stat. 73.)

(b) may adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal, which shall be judicially noticed; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (b), 52 Stat. 73.)

(c) may make contracts and purchase or lease and hold such real and personal property as it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business, and may dispose of such property held by it upon such terms as it deems appropriate; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (c), 52 Stat. 73.)

(d) subject to the provisions of section 508 (c), may sue and be sued in its corporate name in any court of competent jurisdiction, State or Federal: Provided, That no attachment, injunction, garnishment, or other similar process, mesne or final, shall be issued against the Corporation or its property; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (d), 52 Stat. 73.)

(e) may adopt, amend, and repeal by-laws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its business may be conducted and the powers granted to it by law may be exercised and enjoyed; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (e), 52 Stat. 73.)

(f) shall be entitled to the free use of the United States mails in the same manner as the other executive agencies of the Government; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (f), 52 Stat. 73.)

(g) with the consent of any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department of the Government, including any field service thereof, may avail itself of the use of information, services, facilities, officials, and employees thereof in carrying out the provisions of this title; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (g), 52 Stat. 73.)

(h) may conduct researches, surveys, and investigations relating to crop insurance, and preparatory to the application of the Act to other basic commodities when so provided by law, shall assemble data relative to field corn, for the purpose of establishing a satisfactory actuarial basis for such commodity; (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1506 (h), 52 Stat. 73, 55 Stat. 257.)

(i) shall determine the character and necessity for its expenditures under this title and the manner in which they shall be incurred, allowed, and paid, without regard to the provisions of any other laws governing the expenditure of public funds and such determinations shall be final and conclusive upon all other officers of the Government; and (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (i), 52 Stat. 73.)

(j) shall have such powers as may be necessary or appropriate for the exercise of the powers herein specifically conferred upon the Corporation and all such incidental powers as are customary in corporations generally. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1506 (j), 52 Stat. 73.)

### Personnel

Sec. 507. (a) The Secretary shall appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Corporation, which appointments may be made without regard to the civil-service laws and regulations, fix their compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, define their authority and duties, delegate to them such of the powers vested in the Corporation as he may determine, require bond of such of them as he may designate, and fix the penalties and pay the premiums of such bonds. The appointment of officials and the selection of employees by the Secretary shall be made only on the basis of merit and efficiency. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1507 (a), 52 Stat. 73.)

(b) Insofar as applicable, the benefits of the Act entitled "An Act to provide compensation for employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties, and for other purposes," approved September 7, 1916, as amended, shall extend to persons given employment under the provisions of this title, including the employees of the committees and associations referred to in subsection (c) of this section and the members of such committees. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1507 (b), 52 Stat. 74.)

(c) The Board may establish or utilize committees or associations of producers in the administration of this title and make payments to such committees or associations to cover the estimated administrative expenses to be incurred by them in cooperating in carrying out this title and may provide that all or part of such estimated expenses may be included in the insurance premiums provided for in this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1507 (c), 52 Stat. 74.)

(d) The Secretary of Agriculture may allot to bureaus and offices of the Department of Agriculture or transfer to such other agencies of the State and Federal Governments as he may request to assist in carrying out this title any funds made available pursuant to the provisions of section 516 of this Act. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1507 (d), 52 Stat. 74.)

(e) In carrying out the provisions of this title the Board may, in its discretion, utilize producer-owned and producer-controlled cooperative associations. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed., 1507 (e), 52 Stat. 74.)

### Crop Insurance

Sec. 508. To carry out the purposes of this title the Corporation is authorized and empowered--

(a) (1) Commencing with the wheat, cotton, and flax crops planted for harvest in 1945, to insure, upon such terms and conditions not inconsistent with the provisions of this title as it may determine,

producers of wheat, cotton, and flax against loss in yields due to unavoidable causes, including drought, flood, hail, wind, frost, winter-kill, lightning, fire, excessive rain, snow, wildlife, hurricane, tornado, insect infestation, plant disease, and such other unavoidable causes as may be determined by the Board. Such insurance shall cover a percentage to be determined by the Board not in excess of 75 per centum of the recorded or appraised average yield of such commodities on the insured farm for a representative period subject to such adjustments as the Board may prescribe to the end that the average yields fixed for farms in the same area, which are subject to the same conditions, may be fair and just. Such insurance shall not cover losses due to the neglect or malfeasance of the producer, or to the failure of the producer to reseed to the same crop in areas and under circumstances where it is customary to so reseed, or to the failure of the producer to follow established good farming practices. Insurance shall not be provided in any county unless written applications therefor are filed covering at least fifty farms or one-third of the farms normally producing the agricultural commodities authorized to be insured, except that insurance may be provided for producers on farms situated in a local producing area bordering on a county with a crop-insurance program. The Board may limit insurance in any county or area, or on any farm, on the basis of the insurance risk involved.

(2) For the purpose of determining the most practical plan, terms, and conditions of insurance with respect to corn, dry beans, oats, barley, rye, tobacco, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sugar beets, sugarcane, timber and forests, potatoes and other vegetables, citrus and other fruits, tame hay, and any other agricultural commodity, if sufficient actuarial data are available, as determined by the Board, to insure upon such terms and conditions not inconsistent with the provisions of this title as it may determine, producers of such agricultural commodities against loss due to the unavoidable causes covered in paragraph (1) of this subsection: Provided, That such insurance shall be limited in 1945 to corn and tobacco and to not more than three additional crops for each year thereafter. Insurance provided for any agricultural commodity under this paragraph shall be subject to the limitations and conditions provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be for a period of not more than three years, and shall be limited to producers in not to exceed twenty counties selected by the Board as representative of the several areas where the agricultural commodity is normally produced: Provided, however, That such insurance may cover a percentage not in excess of 75 per centum of the investment in the crop, as determined by the Board. The Corporation shall report annually to the Congress the results of its operations as to each commodity under this paragraph. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1508 (a) 52 Stat. 74, 835, 55 Stat. 257, 58 Stat. 918.)

(b) To fix adequate premiums for insurance in the agricultural commodity or in cash, at such rates as the Board deems sufficient to cover claims for crop losses on such insurance and to establish as

expeditiously as possible a reasonable reserve against unforeseen losses. Such premiums shall be collected at such time or times, or shall be secured in such manner, as the Board may determine: Provided, That, after the crop year of 1949, not more than a sum equivalent to 25 per centum of the premiums collected in the preceding year (beginning calculation of premiums collected in the crop year of 1949) shall be used for administrative expenses in any current operating year. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1508 (b), 52 Stat. 74, 55 Stat. 257, 58 Stat. 918.)

(c) To adjust and pay claims for losses in the agricultural commodity or in cash, under rules prescribed by the Board: Provided, however, That, after the crop year of 1949, if the total amount of accumulated claims for losses on any agricultural commodity for any year exceeds the total amount of the premiums collected less the accumulated premium reserves of the Corporation with respect to any such commodity, (which reserves, after the crop year of 1948, shall not be less than 10 per centum of the premiums collected on such commodity), such claims shall be paid on a pro rata reduced basis. The Corporation shall provide for the posting annually in each county at the county courthouse of a list of indemnities paid for losses on farms in such county. In the event that any claim for indemnity under the provisions of this title is denied by the Corporation, an action on such claim may be brought against the Corporation in the United States district court, or in any court of record of the State having general jurisdiction, sitting in the district or county in which the insured farm is located, and jurisdiction is hereby conferred upon such district courts to determine such controversies without regard to the amount in controversy: Provided, That no suit on such claim shall be allowed under this section unless the same shall have been brought within one year after the date when notice of denial of the claim is mailed to and received by the claimant. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1508 (c), 52 Stat. 74, 55 Stat. 257, 58 Stat. 918.)

(d) From time to time, in such manner and through such agencies as the Board may determine, to purchase, handle, store, insure, provide storage facilities for, and sell the agricultural commodity, and pay any expenses incidental thereto, it being the intent of this provision, however, that, insofar as practicable, the Corporation shall purchase the agricultural commodity only at the rate and to a total amount equal to the payment of premiums in cash by farmers or to replace promptly the agricultural commodity sold to prevent deterioration; and shall sell the agricultural commodity only to the extent necessary to cover payments of indemnities and to prevent deterioration: Provided, however, That nothing in this section shall prevent prompt off-set purchases and sales of the agricultural commodity for convenience in handling. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Corporation from accepting, for the payment of premiums, notes payable in the commodity insured; or the cash equivalent, upon such security as may be determined pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and from purchasing the quantity of the commodity represented by any of such notes not paid at maturity. The restriction on the purchase and sale of the agricultural commodity provided in this section

shall be made a part of any crop insurance agreement made under this title. Notwithstanding any provision of this title, there shall be no limitation upon the legal or equitable remedies available to the insured to enforce against the Corporation the foregoing restriction with respect to purchases and sales of the agricultural commodity. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1508 (d), 52 Stat. 75, 55 Stat. 257.)

(e) In connection with insurance upon yields of cotton, to include provision for additional premium and indemnity in terms of lint cotton to cover loss of cottonseed, such additional premium and indemnity to be determined on the basis of the average relationship between returns from cottonseed and returns from lint cotton for the same period of years as that used for computing yields and premium rates. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1508 (e), 55 Stat. 257.)

#### Indemnities Exempt from Levy

Sec. 509. Claims for indemnities under this title shall not be liable to attachment, levy, garnishment, or any other legal process before payment to the insured or to deduction on account of the indebtedness of the insured or his estate to the United States except claims of the United States or the Corporation arising under this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1509, 52 Stat. 75.)

#### Deposit of Funds

Sec. 510. All money of the Corporation not otherwise employed may be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States or in any bank approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, subject to withdrawal by the Corporation at any time, or with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury may be invested in obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States. Subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve banks are hereby authorized and directed to act as depositories, custodians, and fiscal agents for the Corporation in the performance of its powers conferred by this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1510, 52 Stat. 75.)

#### Tax Exemption

Sec. 511. The Corporation, including its franchise, its capital, reserves, and surplus, and its income and property, shall be exempt from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States or by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality or local taxing authority. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1511, 52 Stat. 75.)

### Fiscal Agent of Government

Sec. 512. When designated for that purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Corporation shall be a depository of public money, except receipts from customs, under such regulations as may be prescribed by said Secretary; and it may also be employed as a financial agent of the Government; and it shall perform all such reasonable duties, as a depository of public money and financial agent of the Government, as may be required of it. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1512, 52 Stat. 75.)

### Accounting by Corporation

Sec. 513. The Corporation shall at all times maintain complete and accurate books of account and shall file annually with the Secretary of Agriculture a complete report as to the business of the Corporation. The financial transactions of the Corporation shall be audited at least once each year by the General Accounting Office for the sole purpose of making a report to Congress, together with such recommendations as the Comptroller General of the United States may deem advisable: Provided, That such report shall not be made until the Corporation shall have had reasonable opportunity to examine the exceptions and criticisms of the Comptroller General or the General Accounting Office, to point out errors therein, explain or answer the same, and to file a statement which shall be submitted by the Comptroller General with his report. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed 1513, 52 Stat. 76.)

### Crimes and Offenses

Sec. 514 (a) Whoever makes any statement knowing it to be false, or whoever willfully overvalues any security, for the purpose of influencing in any way the action of the Corporation, or for the purpose of obtaining for himself or another money, property, or anything of value, under this title, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (a), 52 Stat. 76.)

(b) No person shall, while acting in any official capacity in the administration of this title, speculate, directly or indirectly, in any agricultural commodity or product thereof, to which this title applies, or in contracts relating thereto, or in the stock of membership interests of any association or corporation engaged in handling, processing, or disposing of any such commodity or product. Any person violating this subsection shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (b), 52 Stat. 76.)

(c) Whoever, being connected in any capacity with the Corporation, (1) embezzles, abstracts, purloins, or willfully misappropriates any moneys, funds, securities, or other things of value, whether belonging to the Corporation or pledged or otherwise entrusted to it; or (2) with intent to defraud the Corporation, or any other body politic or corporate, or any individual, or to deceive any officer, auditor, or examiner of the Corporation, makes any false entry in any book, report, or statement of, or to the Corporation or draws any order, or issues, puts forth, or assigns any note or other obligation or draft, mortgage, judgment, or decree thereof; or (3) with intent to defraud the Corporation, participates or shares in or receives directly or indirectly any money, profit, property, or benefits through any transaction, loan, commission, contract, or any other act of the Corporation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (c), 52 Stat. 76.)

(d) Whoever willfully shall conceal, remove, dispose of, or convert to his own use or to that of another, any property mortgaged or pledged to, or held by, the Corporation, as security for any obligation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (d), 52 Stat. 76.)

(e) Whoever conspires with another to accomplish any of the acts made unlawful by the preceding provisions of this section shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to the same fine or imprisonment, or both, as is applicable in the case of conviction for doing such unlawful act. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (e), 52 Stat. 77.)

(f) The provisions of sections 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, and 117 of the Criminal Code of the United States (U.S.C., title 18, secs. 202 to 207 inclusive) insofar as applicable, are extended to apply to contracts or agreements with the Corporation under this title: Provided, however, That the provisions of section 3741 of the Revised Statutes (U.S.C., title 41, sec. 22) and sections 114 and 115 of the Criminal Code of the United States shall not apply to any crop-insurance agreements made under this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1514 (f), 52 Stat. 77.)

Advisory Committee

Sec. 515. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to appoint from time to time an advisory committee, consisting of not more than five members experienced in agricultural pursuits and appointed with due consideration to their geographical distribution, to advise the Corporation with respect to carrying out the purposes of this title. The compensation of the members of such committee shall be determined by the Board but shall not exceed \$10 per day each while actually employed and actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses, or a per diem allowance in lieu thereof. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1515, 52 Stat. 77.)

### Appropriations and Regulations:

Sec. 516. (a) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not in excess of \$12,000,000 for each fiscal year beginning after June 30, 1938, as may be necessary to cover the operating and administrative costs of the Corporation, which shall be allotted to the Corporation in such amounts and at such time or times as the Secretary of Agriculture may determine: Provided, That expenses in connection with the purchase, transportation, handling, or sale of the agricultural commodity may be considered by the Corporation as being nonadministrative or nonoperating expenses. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, the appropriation authorized under this subsection is authorized to be made only out of the unexpended balances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, of the sums appropriated pursuant to section 15 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1516 (a), 52 Stat. 77, 55 Stat. 257.)

(b) The Secretary and the Corporation, respectively, are authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1516 (b), 52 Stat. 77.)

### Separability

Sec. 517. The sections of this title and subdivisions of sections are hereby declared to be separable, and in the event any one or more sections or parts of the same of this title be held to be unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of other sections or parts of sections of this title. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 1517, 52 Stat. 77.)

Sec. 518. "Agricultural Commodity", as used in this title, means wheat, cotton, flax, corn, dry beans, oats, barley, rye, tobacco, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sugar beets, sugarcane, timber and forests, potatoes and other vegetables, citrus and other fruits, tame hay, or any other agricultural commodity determined by the Board pursuant to subsection (a) (2) of section 508 of this title, or any one or more of such commodities, as the context may indicate. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1518, 55 Stat. 257, 58 Stat. 918.)

### Right to Amend

Sec. 519. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this title is hereby reserved. (7 U.S.C. 1940 ed. Supp. III, 1519, 52 Stat. 77, 55 Stat. 257.)